

## **REMARKS**

With this paper, Applicant hereby acknowledges receipt of the Final Office Action mailed August 17, 2006. In addition, Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted with a representative of the Applicant on October 25, 2006. Applicant requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-7 and 9-18 are currently pending in the application. In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claims 1-7 and 9-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Hendrickson (JP 09188117A). In paragraph 4, the Examiner also states that claims 10-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hendrickson in view of Hickman (U.S. Patent No. 3,606,376). In addition, in paragraph 5 of the present Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 17 and 18 include allowable subject matter but objects to these claims as depending from rejected base claims. In the telephonic interview held October 25, 2006, the Examiner confirmed that claims 17 and 18 do not stand rejected, but rather that these claims do include allowable subject matter and are currently objected to as depending from rejected base claims.

With this response, Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, 10 and 17. Specifically, Applicant amended claims 1, 9 and 10 in order to more distinctly claim the present invention. In addition, Applicant has amended claim 17 in order to place the previously dependent claim into independent format, since the Examiner has indicated that this claim includes allowable subject matter.

### **Amendments to Claims 1, 9 and 10**

Applicant has amended claims 1, 9 and 10 in order to more distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Specifically, claim 1 now includes language limiting the claimed suspension system to only one bolster spring connected to both the leaf spring and the

undercarriage. Claim 9 claims a method of securing a bolster spring assembly to a suspension system of a vehicle. The claimed method now limits the suspension system to one bolster spring assembly connected to both the leaf spring and the undercarriage. Newly added language in claim 10 limits the inventive suspension system to one bolster spring connecting the leaf spring to the vehicle frame.

The prior art discloses a suspension system including two bolster springs. For at least the reason that each of the inventions set forth in claims 1, 9 and 10 limit the claimed suspension system to one bolster spring generally connected to both the leaf spring and either the frame or the undercarriage, the Applicant asserts claims 1, 9 and 10 are allowable over the prior art.

#### **Conclusion**

For at least the reasons set forth above, claims 1, 9 and 10 are allowable over the prior art. In addition, with the amending of claim 17 into independent format, Applicant asserts that claim 17 is now also in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant believes that all pending independent claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. Moreover, as all pending dependent claims depend from an allowable independent claim, Applicant believes all pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art. As a result, Applicant requests that the present application be passed to issuance.

An earnest attempt has been made to fully respond to the Final Office Action of August 17, 2006. In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant believes that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicant requests entry of the above amendments. If necessary to affect a timely response, please consider this paper a request for an extension of time, and charge any shortages in fees, or apply any overpayment credits, to Baker & Daniels LLP's Deposit Account No. 02-0390 (977463.2). However, please do not include the payment of issue fees.

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In addition, if the Examiner disagrees that the pending application is in condition for allowance, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned in order to discuss any outstanding issues and move the pending application forward to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric J. Groen, Reg. No. 32,230  
BAKER & DANIELS LLP  
300 North Meridian Street, Suite 2700  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Telephone: (317) 237-0300  
Fax: (317)237-1000

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being served via United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box, 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450, on January 17, 2007.



Eric J. Groen  
Printed Name

Date: January 17, 2007